

Mental Health: Whose Issue Is It?

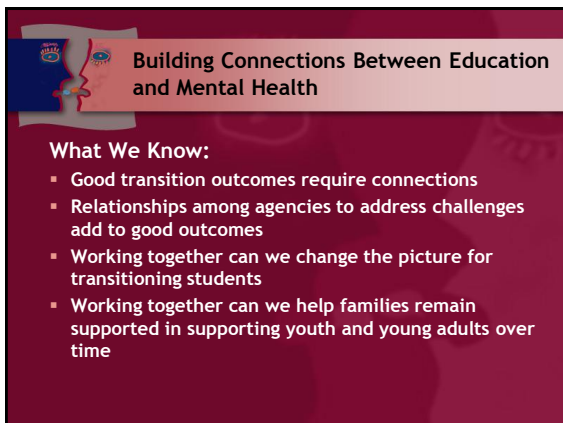
...Transition As a Bridge
Across Agencies



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Building Connections Between Education and Mental Health


What We Know:

- Good transition outcomes require connections
- Relationships among agencies to address challenges add to good outcomes
- Working together can we change the picture for transitioning students
- Working together can we help families remain supported in supporting youth and young adults over time




So What's The Problem?

- Youth and young adults ages 16-25 with serious mental health conditions are our most vulnerable group facing transition to adulthood. They are:
 1. Least likely to graduate from high school
 2. Three times more likely to commit a crime
 3. More likely to engage in substance abuse
 4. Less likely to find, obtain and keep a job
 5. Least likely to achieve independent living




Transition Educators : Focusing on Success in Work and Life

- Although IDEA requires transition at 16, transitions begin early and have important impacts on secondary transition
- Transition is an ongoing process...
- Transition involves school, afterschool and post-school environments
- Transition isn't carried out entirely by transition personnel...important partners provide transition services funded by in MH, JJ, Child Welfare, VR, Workforce and many others...
- Families and youth themselves are the service coordinators across the lifespan




Prevalence

- Prevalence rates of Serious Emotional Disturbance and Serious Mental Illness 4-9% (Davis, 2003)
- Applied to 15-30 year olds in 2009 (Census estimate)
 - Yields estimate of 2.5-5.8 million with serious mental health condition in transition to mature adulthood




Unique Characteristics of Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions in Transition to Adulthood

- Disability typically impairs social participation
- Blaming; parents and youth themselves blamed for the disability
- Stigma
- Presence of disability is often not obvious



Unique Characteristics of Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions in Transition to Adulthood

- Parity with other medical conditions only recently achieved but not yet embraced
- Ignorance; disability identified late and treatment delayed, behavioral nature of disability leads to confusion about treatment versus “socialization”
- Conditions are treatable and disability often ends



There is No Magic Age...

Developmental changes accumulate gradually over time

Functional capacities build gradually over time



Institutional Transitions

Mediated by bureaucratic and legal, rather than cultural or natural, guidelines.

- Differences in eligibility
- Differences in entitlements to service
- Other...



National Efforts to Work across Groups That Share Responsibility for Transition

- The IDEA Partnership - Transition CoP
- SAMHSA
 - Partnerships for Youth Transition
 - Healthy Transitions Initiative



Transition: No Matter the Agency, It's About Changing Lives...



Courtesy: J. Maryann Davis, Ph.D., Center for Mental Health Services Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School
